2. Within these broad objectives agreed upon between the Centre and the States, the transfer of the Central share of funds be done with flexibilities given to the States in implementation, suiting local conditions and emphasis on involvement of people through elected Panchayats and municipalities.

3. In order to reflect appropriately the national priorities and to concentrate efforts and resources on these priorities, the Conference suggested the streamlining of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

4. All Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to the seven Basic Minimum Services should be continued. Within those Basic Minimum Services, an all out effort should be made to secure (a) 100% coverage in provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas, (b) 100% coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas and (c) universalisation of primary education, within the next 2-3 years. However, the States which have achieved satisfactory results in these areas can choose for their priority attention other components of the seven Basic Minimum Services suited to their requirements for full coverage in the next 2-3 years.

5. In the determination of allocation for these Basic Minimum Services by the States and the Centre, the special needs of the States below national average may be taken into consideration

6. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the area of urban and rural poverty alleviation and employment, development of desert and drought-prone areas, nutrition, and for the Welfare of SCs/STs/minorities and disabled persons of our society, should be continued as such and States be given greater involvement/freedom in the implementation of these programmes.

7. Provisions available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes other than those mentioned at S.No. 4 and 6 above, should be pooled and basic State entitlement ratios should be worked out on the basis of allocations made to the States in 1995-96. The States should be free to select for implementation, from the list of these Centrally Sponsored Schemes circulated by the Centre, suiting their needs for using their annual entitlement.

8. The States annual entitlement under all Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be increased by 15-20% every year.

9. The Department of Programme Implementation in the Union Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation would work out the details of these revisions in the guidelines and procedures in consultation with the relevant Central Ministries and a group of Chief Ministers. This exercise may be completed within the one month so that the revisions and changes would be available during this year itself.

10. The Conference recommended regular Central and State joint monitoring and reviews of these programmes.

(c) The concerned Ministries/Department in the Government of India and all the State/UT Governments have been requested to process these recommendations expeditiously. The State/UT Governments have also been requested to identify a nodal Department for processing these recommendations so that the Department of Programme Implementation in the Union Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation could correspond with them.

Land Scam

2247. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, 'Officer in land scam bailed out', appearing in the Pioneer, New Delhi July 15, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The news item relates to action against two IAS Officers who were posted in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu earlier.

Election in Jammu and Kashmir

2248. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at all party meetings convened recently by the Prime Minister, it was unanimously decided that the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir should be completed in September this year;

(b) whether the representatives of the State Government/Parties were consulted before arriving at the said conclusion; and

(c) the reaction of the Jammu and Kashmir Government and election commission to the unanimous recommendations of all parties meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). An all party meeting was taken by the Prime Minister

with leaders of various political parties on 8th July, 1996 to discuss issues related to conduct of the assembly Elections in J and K. During the meeting, there was a consensus that the Assembly elections in the State should be held at the earliest preferably by September, 1996. Earlier the Prime Minister, during his visit to J and K on July 6, 1996 also had discussions with representatives of political parties in the State, where also there was a similar consensus. The Government are in agreement with this view. The matter has since been taken up with the Election Commission for finalising the exact dates for the Assembly Elections.

[Translation]

Indo-Tibetan Border Police

2249. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total strength of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police;

(b) whether the ITBP has to discharge the duty of safeguarding the borders in the most adverse geographical conditions;

(c) whether the Government propose to arm the ITBP with the latest weapons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Total strength of Indo-Tibetan Border Police is 30,366.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). ITBP Units have been armed with modern weapons including the undermentioned weapons :

7.62	SLR
7.62	IMG
7.62	MMG
7.62	Sniper Rifle Styer
9 MM	Carbine
9 MM	Pistol
AK-47	Rifle
7.62	SLR GF Rifle
51	MM Mortar
81	MM Mortar

[English]

Fertilizer Industries in Orissa

2250. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fertilizer industries in Orissa running with the assistance of Government;

(b) the number of sick industries out of them; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revitalise these sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) There are two fertilizer plants in Central public sector in Orissa viz. (1) Talcher Plant of FCI, and (2) Rourkela Fertilizer Plant of SAIL.

(b) and (c). The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI), which has its coal-based unit at Talcher in Orissa, has been declared as sick by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The revival package for FCI, approved in principle, by the Government envisages fresh investment of Rs. 1736.20 crore, including Rs. 523 crore for front and change from coal to naphtha for Talcher unit.

With a view to minimising the requirement of budgetary support, it has been decided to reformulate the revival package from the standpoint of the Financial Institutions. The final revival package would also require approval of BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority. Government has been providing budgetary support to the extent possible, to sustain production at operational plants, including Talcher unit.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Saving-cum-relief Scheme

1. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn their contribution of Rs. 360.00 per person per annum to the "Saving Cum relief Scheme' for fishermen in Kerala, which was in force since 1991-92; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Instructions were issued to discontinue the Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme with effect from 1.4.96 as it was considered that alternative employment opportunities available to fishermen during the monsoon period are a better form of assistance that an outright grant of Rs.720 per annum, shared equally by the Central and State Governments. However the department is reconsidering this.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY GIVEN TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2795 DATED 22.8.95 REGARDING RAILWAY BRIDGES.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, in reply to part (a) of the Unstarred